

**Report of the Head of Scrutiny**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 15 September 2016**

**Subject: Work Schedule**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1 Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

**2 Main Issues**

2.1 A written request for Scrutiny have been submitted to the Scrutiny Chair (Children's Services) and is attached as appendix 1 for the Boards consideration. A number of factors should be taken into consideration when considering requests for Scrutiny and the work programme of the Board which are detailed in paragraph 2.4

With regard to this particular request the Board should also note that the Children's Services Transport Policy was agreed by Executive Board Executive 17 July 2013, this was subsequently Called In and considered by Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2013. At that meeting the decision was released for implementation. Executive Board agreed an updated policy in November 2013 which addressed an equality area identified by the Scrutiny Board.

2.2 On 23<sup>rd</sup>. March 2016 there was a deputation to Full Council on behalf of families in the Bardsey and Keswick Area.

2.3 In May 2016 the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) considered and made decisions on three complaints made by parents from this area. The published summary and agreed action extracts are identified as appendix 2.

In response to the deputation a report was submitted to Executive Board 22 June 2016, which also addressed the findings of the LGO. This report is attached as appendix 3, and an extract of the minutes as appendix 4.

2.4 When considering the request for Scrutiny and the draft work programme effort should be undertaken to:

- Avoid duplication by having a full appreciation of any existing forums already having oversight of, or monitoring a particular issue
- Ensure any Scrutiny undertaken has clarity and focus of purpose and will add value and can be delivered within an agreed time frame.
- Avoid pure “information items” except where that information is being received as part of a policy/scrutiny review
- Seek advice about available resources and relevant timings taking into consideration the workload across the Scrutiny Boards and the type of Scrutiny taking place
- Build in sufficient flexibility to enable the consideration of urgent matters that may arise during the year

2.5 A draft work schedule is attached as appendix 5. The work programme has been provisionally completed pending on going discussions with the Board. Also attached as appendix 5 is the minutes of Executive Board for 27 July 2016

### **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Consider the request for Scrutiny and determine if this will be added to the work schedule
- b) Consider the draft work schedule and make amendments as appropriate.
- c) Note the Executive Board minutes

4. **Background papers**<sup>1</sup> - None used

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.